

a few moments, and then running to the edge of the water and bathing freely. After dressing her feathers she started along the beach in the direction in which I was sitting, a mistake not noticed by her until too late. I can find no record of the occurrence of this species so far north, therefore think its capture worthy of note.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kansas*.

The Occurrence of *Chroicocephalus franklini* in Wisconsin.—October 22, 1884, I took a female specimen of this Gull near the mouth of Fox River. Two other Gulls accompanied it, which I was unable to secure. They were probably the same species.—SAMUEL WELLS WILLARD, *West De Pere, Wisc.*

*Rissa tridactyla kotzebuei* in Washington Territory.—I can find no mention of the occurrence of the Pacific Kittiwake Gull south of Alaska, and therefore think it will be of interest for me to say that I killed a pair of the birds March 2, 1882, at Port Townsend, the only ones observed by me on the coast. I have the male in my collection.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kansas*.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

### Indian Bird Names.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

Sirs: Under the head of 'Correspondence' in the October number of 'The Auk' Mr. Henshaw notes with surprise my statement that "They [the Chippewa Indians] have no specific name for fully one-half of those [birds] which yearly nest before their eyes or pass by in migration." He goes on to say, "That Indians should know little of the birds, especially of the smaller kinds, that visit this country only as migrants, is not perhaps surprising, but that any considerable number of birds inhabiting their country, even of the smaller and inconspicuous kinds, should not be known to Indians and be named by them is surprising." At the time I made my statement I based it on the following facts. There occur in that part of Minnesota about 250 species of birds; as the Chippewas have less than 125 bird names, they name less than half of those "which yearly nest before their eyes or pass by in migration." I did not mean by this, less than half of the migrants and less than half of the breeders, but less than half of the sum total. Since reading Mr. Henshaw's letter, I have gone over the subject again, with the following results.

Dr. Hatch, in his 1880 list of Minnesota birds, gives 281 species. Of these, at least 240 occur during some part of every year at White Earth

Agency. The Indians have names for 114 of these 240, or 47½ per cent. There are 71 non-breeders, that is migrants and winter visitants, of which 14, or about 20 per cent., are named, and 169 breeders, of which 100 or about 60 per cent., are named. So that Mr. Henshaw is correct in judging that more than half of the breeders should have names.

The past summer I spent several months among the Otoes, a small tribe in the Indian Territory, and though no complete list of their bird names was collected, yet enough was learned to indicate that in this matter they are poverty stricken.

*Morehead, Minn., Dec. 4. 1884.*

W. W. COOKE.

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

IN Dr. Merriam's 'Preliminary Report of the Committee on Bird Migration,' published in the last number of 'The Auk,' attention was called to the fact that the amount of material, in the way of returns from observers, could not be properly elaborated without considerable pecuniary assistance.' Foreseeing this state of affairs, the Union, at its last meeting (Sept., 1884), instructed the Council to prepare and present a proper memorial to Congress in behalf of the Committee. We are happy to state that the appeal was so far successful that an appropriation of \$5000 in aid of the work was secured through the Department of Agriculture. This sum will doubtless enable the Committee to not only carry on the present year's field-work successfully, but to do much toward getting the results of last year's work in proper shape for publication. As is well known, the Migration Committee and the Committee on the Geographical Distribution of North American Birds has been consolidated, and the Committee has now in hand not only the subject of migration, but also the elaboration of all available or obtainable data on the distribution of the species throughout the continent, a subject of well-known interest and importance.

IN 1883, the legislature of Maine repealed all acts providing for the appointment of taxidermists and the taking of birds, nests, and eggs for scientific purposes. Abuses had sprung up under the old statutes, and the law-makers believed that the best remedy would be found in a policy of total prohibition. For two years, therefore, ornithology has made little progress in Maine. During the past winter the Portland Society of Natural History made a determined and successful effort to secure the passage of a law in behalf of collectors. The bill presented by the Society was adopted, with several unimportant changes, but with one provision which is objectionable — which, however, was made a *sine qua*